

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 JUSE-00 SEC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 MC-02

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R 140735Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6759

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10526

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGW: PFOR, BBAK, BOIS, NI, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED PAYOLA QUESTION SURFACES AGAIN

1. MEA AMERICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR EDREMODA, ACTING "ON DIRECT REQUEST FROM THE HEAD OF STATE," HAS ASKED ME TO SEE WHETHER "ADDITIONAL DETAIL" CAN BE FURNISHED TO THE FMG CONCERNING ALLEGED LOCKHEED PAYOFFS TO NIGERIANS IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1974 SALE TO NIGERIA OF SIX C-130H'S. EDREMODA SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO INFORM ME THAT THE INFORMATION AMBASSADOR SANU OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND BROUGHT TO LAGOS IN JUNE (STATE 141462) WAS CONSIDERED "SCANTY AND NOT PARTICULARLY USEFUL."

2. I TOLD EDREMODA I HAD NOT SEEN THE MATERIALS SANU HAD BEEN GIVEN. HE SAID HE HAD HAD "ONLY A QUICK LOOK" BUT HE THOUGHT THERE WERE ONLY ONE OR TWO NAMES OF INTEREST. (EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FORMER AIRFORCE CHIEF IKOWUE IS THE ONLY NIGERIAN WHO APPEARS IN THE DOCUMENTS. IKWUE WAS DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING FOR A LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME IN CONNECTION WITH MUHAMMED'S ASSASSINATION IN FEBRUARY BUT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CLEARED AND RELEASED.)

3. I REMINDED EDREMODA OF THE PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR
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RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS OF JUSTICE AND OF THE ARRANGEMENTS

THEREIN FOR THE INTERVIEWING OF PERSONS IN THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS OF THE OTHER PARTY. I SAID I ASSUMED ALL RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE INFORMATION IN USG POSSESSION HAD ALREADY BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE FMG, AND IT WOULD NOW BE UP TO FMG LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES TO TAKE THE NEXT INITIATIVE.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF HIGHEST LEVEL ATTENTION STILL BEING GIVEN THIS MATTER HERE, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S EARLIEST GUIDANCE FOR EMBASSY RESPONSE TO MEA. WE ALSO POINT OUT THAT LOCKHEED OFFICIAL TOLD DAO THAT FMG IS EXPLORING WITH LOCKHEED GEORGIA THROUGH NIGERIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON, THE POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING SIX ADDITIONAL C-130H AIRCRAFT. WE UNDERSTAND LOCKHEED IS AWARE OF REPORTED FMG INTENT TO DEDUCT FROM ANY SECOND PURCHASE THE "ILLEGAL PAYMENTS" MADE ON THE FIRST.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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